

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES UPDATED FLASH INCIDENT REPORT

EVENT NAME: Mudslides, Kern and Los Angeles Counties
(This report may contain unconfirmed information)

DATE/TIME OF REPORT: 10/15/2015 at 2245 hours

DATE/TIME OF EVENT: 10/15/2015 at 1506 hours

LOCATION: Interstate 5 at Fort Tejon

IMPACT OF EVENT: MODERATE

SITUATION

- A low-pressure weather system absorbing moisture from the south sparked severe weather, mudslides and flash flood warnings across southwestern California on Thursday evening.
- About 2 1/2 inches of rain fell in a short period of time in the affected areas, portions of which were covered with golf ball-sized hail.
- Flash flooding sent water, mud and rocks rushing across Interstate 5 at Fort Tejon, stranding hundreds of vehicles and closing the major north-south thoroughfare. Some secondary roads were left impassable from mud.
- Some homes were affected by mud in the Elizabeth Lake, Lake Hughes and Palmdale areas according to local media reports.
- There have been no reports of serious injuries or deaths, as of this report.

Road Conditions and Closures

- Per CHP:
 - Northbound Interstate 5 traffic is closed at Frazier Mountain Park
 - Southbound Interstate 5 traffic is closed at Grapevine Road
 - Eastbound and Westbound Highway 58 near Tehachapi is closed
- Per Caltrans:
 - Cal Trans is working through the night to attempt to get some/all of Interstate 5 reopened for the morning commute, however notices of a potential 24 hour closure are in effect.
 - There is approximately 500' or more of debris on northbound I-5 as deep as 5 feet that needs to be hauled out.
 - There are no vehicles reported stuck on northbound Interstate 5.
 - The debris on southbound I5 is across a 1/2 mile or more and there are still dozens of vehicles, including trucks stuck. Work is ongoing to remove debris but it is slowed by the extraction of vehicles by tow services.
 - Kern Co. and Fire are assisting with loaders to assist in removing debris.
 - A state geologist is being sent out late Thursday evening to assess slopes stability in order to reopen when debris is removed

- Real time road closure information for Los Angeles County is available on the County Public Works website www.dpw.lacounty.gov

Infrastructure & Utilities

- Southern California Edison reported 8,700 customers in the area are without power, however, these outages and pose no threat to the grid; and are not related to the slide according to the California Utility Emergency Association (CUEA).
- Union Pacific Railroad main tracks out of service at railroad station Cameron (just south of Tehachapi about 8 miles and 10 miles north of Mojave) due to fears of potential bridge and track washout – yet to be confirmed. Union Pacific forces are mobilizing and managers are assessing options at this time according to Roger Clugston, Railroad Operations and Safety Branch Program Manager for CPUC.

Inland Region

- Per the Cal OES Inland Region Duty Officer, Kern County does not have any requests for state assistance at the time of this report

Southern Region

- Los Angeles County Probation Department reported that Camp Mendenhall, a probation camp, was sheltering in place due to a mudslide on Lake Hughes Road. The camp advises that they are self-sufficient and have adequate supplies of water and food.
- Los Angeles County does not have any unmet needs or requests for state assistance at the time of this report, per the Cal OES Southern Region Duty Officer.
- Los Angeles County will activate their 211 Disaster Hotline for businesses and residents to report damages. The damage report capability will also be available on their website.

Shelters

- The City of Palmdale is reporting that the American Red Cross is establishing a shelter at Marie Kerr Park, 2723 Rancho Vista Blvd (address for the Palmdale Amphitheatre), Palmdale, CA 93551
- Lake Elizabeth Elementary School is sheltering 25 people who were trapped and had to shelter in place.

Cal OES leaders and 24-hour on call duty officers are gathering information and providing updates as they become available.

POINT OF CONTACT: California State Warning Center
916-845-8911

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